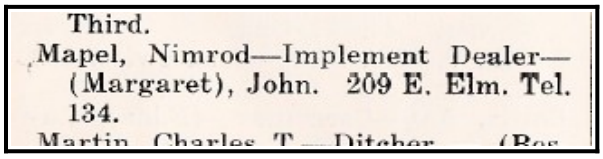
Ownership history of the large brick home at 209 East Elm Street in Fairbury, Illinois

By: Dale C. Maley – Fairbury, Illinois, Historian

General Comment

In my past historical research, I always heard this house referred to as the "Mapel House". I checked the 1930 Fairbury phone book, the oldest phone book we have at the Fairbury Echoes Museum, and Nimrod Mapel lived in the home in 1930:

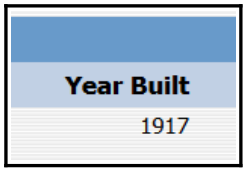

Third.
Mapel, Nimrod—Implement Dealer—
(Margaret), John. 209 E. Elm. Tel.
134.

I have written 2 stories about the Mapel family. One story is about the two brothers who had the leather harness business in Fairbury. The other story is about the horse mannequin, which now resides at the Pontiac-Oakland car museum, just west of the old Court House in Pontiac.

Hint that house might have been built by a Claudon

I asked a long-time resident of Fairbury about it, and many years ago Warren Ulfers, a now deceased local farmer, got a tour of the house because it was associated with the Claudon family with the failed Claudon Bank.

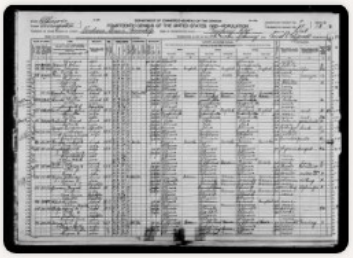
When does Livingston County tax assessor web site say the house was built?



Who Lived in the House for the 1920 US Census?

Andrew B Claudon

in the 1920 United States Federal Census



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Name	Andrew B Claudon
Age	72
Birth Year	abt 1848
Birthplace	France
Home in 1920	Indian Grove, Livingston, Illinois
Street	South Fifth St
House Number	503
Residence Date	1920

The banker father, A. B. Claudon did **not** live in the house at 209 E. Elm, he lived at 503 South 5th Street.

The son of the banker, did live at 209 E. Elm in the 1920 Census !! He lived with his wife, Bethel Brewer, and their son, plus a servant:

1920 United States Federal Census for Andrew Bostrine Claudin

Illinois > Livingston > Indian Grove > District 0029

Street	House No.	Dwel No.	Visite No.	Name	Relation	Home Ov	Mortgage	Sex	Race	Age	Marit Status	Year Immi	Nat
Elm	209	57	61	Claudino Andrew Bostrine	head	O	F	M	W	31	M		
				Bethel Brewer	wife			F	W	31	M		
				Wm Brewer	son			M	W	4 9/12	S		
				Elva Lyon	servant			F	W	20	S		
	207	58	62	Curtis Stanley Jones	head	O	F	M	W	57	M		
	205	59	63	Otis Newton Murdock	head	O	F	M	W	46	M		
				Ora Gertrude	wife			F	W	48	M		
East	201	60	64	Odell Elmer H	head	O	F	M	W	52	M		
				Lillie Martha	wife			F	W	49	M		

I think the son tried to commit suicide by taking something, he went into a coma, came to for a couple of days, then died. I think the son died in the house at 209 E. Elm.

His obit says funeral was at his home, but does not give an address in the obit.

In that era, many people died at home, then the funeral was held at the home, and not at a funeral home or church like today.

Is there any mention of building this house in the 1917 Blade Newspaper

You can access and search the old Blades from the Dominy Memorial Library web site, under the RESOURCES tab, then Blade.

1917 is split into two different files. I searched one for Claudon, but got way too many hits to take the time to check them all. There could be a mention of AB Claudon Jr. building this house, but it would take a lot of time to find the article.